



Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (BRD)

دبیاودانولو اوپراختیا موسسه

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Program



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Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Program

I. Rational

Observing the frequent communal/sectarian/internal conflicts and political instability in Afghanistan due to weak rule of law, existence of local power holders, corruption and poor services, the main challenges is the reconstruction and development of this country, where thousands of innocent people are being adversely affected in different conflicts every year.

Principles and rules of action that can help to create a conflict-conscious debate culture are to a certain extent lacking within Afghan local governmental bodies at both provincial and district levels. At the same time, the Afghan civil society sector has to rely on effective conflict-solving methods more than any other sector operating in Afghanistan.

Within different provinces, competing interests and power struggles make it difficult for aid organizations to arrive at a comprehensive strategy for development. Alongside internal power players, powerful warlords, widespread corruption and poor security situations hamper trust in the potential effectiveness of the Afghan civil sector.

Successful conflict resolution occurs by listening and providing opportunities to meet each side's needs, and adequately address their interests so that they are each satisfied with the outcome.

Therefore, building the capacity of community elders, organizations working at the community level, youths and traditional councils for promote peace and deliver effective conflict resolution programs, which can play a vital role in reduction of conflicts and cultivate the culture of peace at community level in Afghanistan.

Using different approaches for development of skills and capacities of the civil society and community based organizations, youths and elders, BRD has implemented successful projects, which contributed to development of capacity of effective engagement in peace building and conflict resolution at community level in Afghanistan.

II. Objectives of the program:

The main purposes of the program were as following:

- sustainable development of conflict management, improvement of discursive and participatory skills of participants
- growth of awareness of participants and their familiarity with methods and strategies for peaceful conflict resolution
- improvement of awareness of participants on effective communication, which can prevent conflicts
- implementing of techniques of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) which is a crucial element in peace building and conflict solving.

III. Key interventions of the program:

1. Peace building and conflict resolution through Nonviolent Communication (NVC).

This initiative was taken by BRD in the framework of the National Peace Building and Conflict Resolution training, which has been organised annually since 2007 in Kabul. The

program was addressed to trainers from society organizations, local NGOs and government agencies.



The purpose of these annual Training Seminars is to train the trainers of the organizations who deal with peace building and promoting and conflict solving at community and national level.

The participants are trained in the field of effective communication by using three main pillars of NVC: thinking, speaking and listening. They learned how to build relationships and peace by compassionate ways of acting, expressing them self and hearing others with empathic attention.

2. Peace building and conflict resolution with children

Peace building and conflict resolution was BRD pilot initiative, with support of TEMBA School in order to work with children from different backgrounds. It was organized for the first time in Afghanistan and managed to gather more than 40 children aged 8-13. The program covered school children, deaf children and street children.

The purpose of the one-day workshop was to build the knowledge of different groups of children about concept of peace, its importance, valance and abuse. Children learned about basic factors of impact of conflict and were taught empathy, respect, love, kindness, giving, appreciation, happiness and creativity. The workshops provide them a space to play together and share their ideas.



Children learned how to use colours to express feelings and discovered tangible skills for acting in service of human needs. They also created peace flags with messages as “peace”, “friendship”, “Prevent Child Abuse” and “Stop Violence Against Children” that they wanted to be published.

At the end of the training children sent appeals to the international community and a state to protect children rights, prevent child abuse, to stop violence against children and to give more support to Afghan children. They also sent the message of the Peace and Friendship to the children around the world.

3. Conflict Management by Civil Society and Local Administration

This program was initiated by BRD in partnership with Humboldt-Vadraina School of Governance.

The program was delivered in two phases. The first phase was the selection of members of the civil society and local administration who participated in intensive training organized in Berlin, in Germany. During this training, participants gained a comprehensive knowledge and skills on conflict management, good governance, transparency and anti-corruption. They were coached to design their follow projects to be implemented while they return to Afghanistan. The follow up projects designed by the participants, were funded through small grants.

Through their follow up project, the Berlin training participants targeted a wider audience such as Community Elders, teachers, scholars, and members of the Community Development Councils, Social Mobilizers of National Solidarity Program, Officials from Justice Attorney

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General and Women Affairs departments as well as youth, men and women from local villages, who are potentially involved in different ways of resolving conflicts, The program covered in total more than two hundred people. Big impact was put on participation of young people such as school and university students, who are perceived as peace building messengers in their families and communities.



The purpose of the initiative was to implement an effective and sustainable conflict resolution in the districts and community level and to improve participants' skills in peaceful conflict management and increasing their awareness of and familiarity with strategies for effective discussion and conflict mediation.

4. Results of the interventions under the program:

Through undertaken trainings and workshops participants are supposed to be able to resolve conflict peacefully at family and community level.

The most significant outcomes for all the participants of the program are as following:

- methodological knowledge on conflicts (origins, types, ways of analysing, methods for effective mediation and problem solving) and effective communication.
- practical skills on above mentioned subjects through role playing, knowledge transfer and round tables
- familiarity with and using of techniques of Nonviolent Communication
- changes in participants' mindset for resolving conflicts: increase of trust in neutral, peacefully, impartial conflict solving



The results of program for the participants from different groups are as following:

- Youth, scholars, and teachers: this group will be able to mediate and develop a process of peace building at community level as well as at family level; they will be perceived as peace building messengers. They will also be able to avoid problems and conflicts.
- Officials from Justice Atorney General and Women Affairs departments: improvement of awareness and skills in resolving legal conflicts. The acquired knowledge contributed to successful resolving of 10 legal conflicts.
- Community Development Councils, Social Mobilizers of National Security Program: they will be able to resolve conflicts under the NSP program. This will pave the way for further projects which are not implemented due to existing conflicts between the CDCs and the villagers.
- Men and women from Kunduz province: changing of their mindset for and increasing of their trust in peaceful conflict solving. Their families benefit from resolving conflict peacefully and neutrally, with respect for everyone.

Opinions of participants about the program:

“The Afghan society has only experienced conflict and war. Such a training workshop where we learned about peace and mediation really supports the individuals to be peace messengers and mediators at their community level.”

“Through participation to this training workshop we will be able to deal with problems that exist at our community or at our family level.”

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“We gained the key skills gained in this program can be easily utilized to resolve conflict in sustainable manner.”

“Through the program we have been equipped with the important tools for managing and resolving conflicts, but the mediation skill which is one of the important tools they can use in every day work for resolving conflicts.”

“During the program we have been trained, on how to promote peace in our community and how to be effectively engaged in conflict management and resolution, which is an important skills for an youth to be a peace maker.”

